GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3436
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2015
Women Empowerment through Self-Help Groups
Singh Shri Parvesh Sahib

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes for empowerment of women through Self-Help Groups implemented by the Government;
(b) the number of women beneficiaries through these Self-Help Groups during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
(c) whether any target has been fixed in this regard and if so, the details thereof along with the achievements made thereunder; and
(d) whether the Government has made any evalutation of the effects of these groups on the empowernment of women and if so, the details and outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) This Ministry is implementing schemes for empowerment of women through Self-Help-Groups (SHGs) through Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) and STEP Scheme of Ministry. RMK is a registered Society under the Society Registration Act, 1860 under the agies of the Ministry of Women & Child Development. It provides micro-finance to poor women in the informal sector all over the Country through NGOs/ Inter-mediary Organizations (IMOs)/ Self-Help-Groups(SHGs) without collateral security. The details of various prevalent loan schemes of RMK are given at Annexure-1
Besides schemes of RMK, the Ministry has been administering 'Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) Scheme' since 1986-87 as a 'Central Sector Scheme'. The STEP Scheme aims to provide skills that give employability to women and to provide competencies and skill that enable women to become self-employed/ entrepreneurs. The Scheme is intended to benefit women who are in the age group of 16 years and above across the country. The grant under the Scheme is given to an institution/ organization including NGOs directly and not to the States/ UTs. The assistance under STEP Scheme is available in any sector for imparting skills related to employability and entrepreneurship, including but not limited to the Agriculture, Horticulture, Food Processing, Handlooms, Tailoring, Stitching, Embroidery, Zari etc, Handicrafts, Computer & IT enable services along with soft skills and skills for the work place such as spoken English, Gems & Jewellery, Travel & Tourism, Hospitality. In earlier STEP Guidelines, 2009, there was a provision to create Self-Help Groups (SHGs)/ to establish Co-operatives.

(b) & (c) The number of women beneficiaries through these Self-Help Groups covered druing the past three years and the current year, State/UT-wise are given at Annexure -2 in respect of RMK and at Annexure-3 in respect of STEP Scheme.
(d) To evaluate the performance of RMK as to whether benefits of RMK have reached to the needy women of the Country, an evaluation study was got conducted through Indian Society for Agribusiness Professionals, (ISAP) New Delhi an independent organization in the year 2012 covering 9 states (A.P. Assam. Delhi, M.P, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal) to assess socio-economic impact on women SHGs. The details and outcome of the impact study are given at Annexure -4.
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